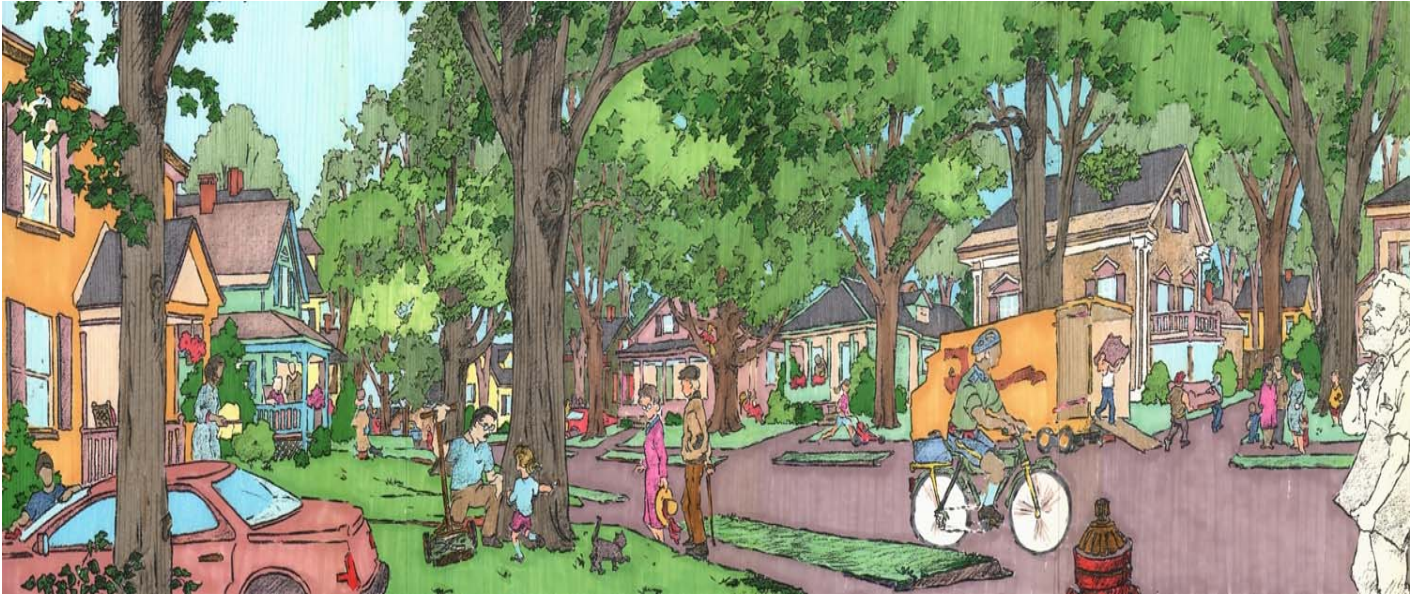


WE HAVE A CHOICE



Report to the
Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources
to
Evaluate Maine's Growth Management Program

February 2003

It is the mission of the State Planning Office to provide the information, analyses, and guidance decision-makers need to make informed decisions about Maine's economy, resources, and governance.

The Maine State Planning Office is directed by the Legislature to develop state policies that promote a balance between economic growth and natural resource conservation. In keeping with this overarching goal, the Community Planning & Investment Program works to foster the health of Maine's service centers, downtowns, and traditional villages that encourage compact development, rather than sprawling development that impacts wetlands, wildlife habitat, water quality, farmlands, and working forests.

This report is provided to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resource matters in accordance with 30-A MRSA §4331.



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“There is no finer creation than the New England village. It is testament to the livable community — a community of neighborhoods, churches, shops and town hall. It is testament, too, to the countryside that surrounds it. The contrast between village and countryside in Maine is as crisp as a fresh apple, picked on a fine fall day. We savor both.”

Angus S. King, Jr., 1997

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No one agency or level of government is solely responsible for land use planning. This report looks broadly at state, regional, and local actions that support smart growth in Maine. The accomplishments contained herein are not just those of the State Planning Office, but of many individuals and organizations in the public, private, and non-profit sectors who have invested countless hours advancing the goals contained herein. Their efforts have been critical to what success has been achieved.

For identifying the key strategies that are the basis for the State's approach to managing land use in Maine today, we would like to thank the Commissioners and designees of the ten state agencies that, along with the State Planning Office, comprised Governor King's Smart Growth Sub-cabinet. Their approach is strategic and seeks to assure a strong rate of return on public investment, a renewed commitment to environmental stewardship, and stepped up efforts to build and strengthen community.

Department of Administrative & Financial
Services
Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural
Resources
Department of Conservation
Department of Economic & Community
Development

Department of Education
Department of Environmental Protection
Maine State Housing Authority
Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Department of Marine Resources
Department of Transportation

In addition, we would like to recognize those members of the Smart Growth Coordinating Committee who reviewed and helped refine the recommendations in this report.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not single out Evan Richert, former Director of the State Planning Office, without whom "sprawl" would be just another word.

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